

## **Kenton Baptist Church - History - 1900 - present**

**In April of 1899 an inquiry was made to one Rev. Lawler in Trinidad, CO about the possibility of getting a preacher for Kenton, OK. Nothing happened that year but on July 28, 1900, Rev. Lawler came and preached a sermon at the school house and 7 persons decided to organize themselves into a Baptist Church. They were Mrs. A.W. Easley, Mrs. A.D. Easley, Mrs. Susan Johnson, Mrs. Carrie Palmer, Miss Mabel Garret, Charles Garret, and R.O. Palmer. Immediately after the organizational meeting Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Eddy were voted in as full members. Also Miss J.M. Pawley presented herself for baptism. The next Sun., the Rev. Lawler came back for services and Miss J.M. Pawley and Mrs. Harriet Perry became members and they adjourned to the river to baptize Miss Pawley. The next Sunday 3 more came in as members and so after 3 Sundays the church was off and running with 14. It was decided then to try to get a pastor and that they would pay \$250 per year for someone to conduct one Sun. service per month. The Methodist Church offered use of their facilities to be used for free. By 1902 the church had their first pastor not counting the Rev. Lawler who helped them start. His name was the Rev. J.C. Chapman.**

**The church building was built starting in 1909 and dedicated for use in July of 1910. The church was also incorporated in February of 1910 with A.W. Easley, M.E. Davis, and W.M. Eddy signing the incorporation papers.**

**A 50 year anniversary celebration was held on July 30, 1950 with the sermon given by Rev. J.M. Haws.**

**In later years one of the pastors who is still living is Calvin Wood and his wife Linda who now live in Cyril, OK. They served from June, 1968 to September, 1969. He was ordained at Kenton and the basement was finished during his term. I usually visit once a year with them and they always want to know about the church.**

**In November of 1978 the church moved to join with Wheelless Baptist Church in sharing a pastor. They then called Galen Smith who came with his family in February of 1979. Soon after he was there the log cabin parsonage was built. He left as Kenton pastor in February of 1991 and currently lives in Boise City.**

**Henry Woody then was pastor from January to July of 1993. In April of**

**1994 Rance Grice became pastor and he served until January of 2007 when the church was closed. The 100 year anniversary celebration was held in 2000 we think in September.**

**In February of 2008 the church was restarted with Jerry Rice (acting as pastor) and his wife, Debbie, meeting with 2 other former member couples, L.G. and Diane Smith and also Fred and Nora Like. Also becoming involved again were former members, Mark and Kathy Roberts. We have been meeting now for over 5 years. During that time many things have happened including 10 people being baptized and in the last church reporting year we had an average attendance of just over 16 per Sunday. The membership is presently 23 with 14 of those being resident members.**

**Compiled by Jerry Rice, pastor, 2008-?  
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